45% and 60% to 20% and 40% respectively by the end of the VIIIth Plan.

(iii) Achievement of minimum leave of learning by approximately all children at the primary levels.

(iv) Imparting of functional literacy to all adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group by launching Total Literacy Campaigns in all parts of the country.

(v) Implementing comprehensive programmes for post literacy and Continuing Education in all areas/ districts covered by the Total Literacy Campaigns.

(vi) Adoption of strategies to improve planning mechanism, including the following:

(a) District-wise planning based on special local needs of districts classified as (i) High Literacy Districts, (ii) Total Literacy Campaign Districts, and (iii) Low Literacy Districts; and

(b) Micro-planning for family-wise and child wise design of action through community participation.

Ashram Pathshalas

*578. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposal to open Ashram Pathshalas in the backward regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Government have received requests in this regard from the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Central Government has no such propose under consideration.

(b) to (d). Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Railway Schools

*581. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for opening railway schools;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more such schools Keeping in view the number of children of railway employees and their requirement;

(c) if so, the details of railway schools proposed to be opened zone-wise along with the locations thereof;

(d) whether there is also any scheme to upgrade the exusting railway schools;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Provision of Education of facilities is the responsibility of State Governments/Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Railways have set up a few schools within the limited re-